17th March 1931]

Agriculture

Deficiency in the burning qualities of tobacco in Godavari and Kistna districts.

*636 Q.—Rao Sahib B. VENKATARAMAYYA: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Director of Agriculture has noticed that tobacco, deficient in burning qualities, is grown in thousands of acres in the upland tracts of West Godavari and Kistna districts;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the ryots or any private individual interested in tobacco industry approached the Director of Agriculture regarding the same; and

(c) if so, what action the Director of Agriculture has taken in the matter?

A.—(a) The Director of Agriculture is aware that there are about 12,000 acres under tobacco in the two districts mentioned and that some of the tobacco raised there is deficient in burning.

(b) Mr. P. Narayana Rao, the Secretary of the District Temperance Committee, approached the Director of Agriculture and was informed by him that the department was starting work on tobacco on the Agricultural Research station, Guntur, and that until some definite information as to the right course to pursue was obtained, demonstration could not be undertaken.

(c) An experiment is already in progress at Guntur which will furnish information as to the effect of artificial manures on tobacco and the result of the experiment is awaited.

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I know when this experiment regarding the effect of artificial manures on tobacco was started?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—"Notice."

Admissions to the Agricultural College at Coimbatore.

*637 Q.—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the number of students who applied for admission to the Agricultural College at Coimbatore in June 1930 and the number of applicants who were given admission; and

(b) whether Government are making any arrangements to admit a larger number in the coming year?

A.—(a) 303 and 48 respectively.

(b) No. The existing class-rooms and laboratory are designed to take only 48 students per year and if the number is to be increased arrangements will have to be first made to strengthen the teaching staff of the College, further equip the laboratory, and provide additional accommodation for teaching purposes as well as lodging which is not possible on account of the present financial conditions.